

Lodget & Gurnley 1/3
TRANSACTIONS

OF THE

2168

UPPER CANADIAN CONVENTION,

OF

FRIENDS TO ENQUIRY;

WITH

ADDRESSES,

TO

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS THE PRINCE REGENT,

SIR PEREGRINE MAITLAND,

&c. &c. &c.

Printed at the SPECTATOR OFFICE—Niagara.

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August, 1818.

TAKE NOTICE.

THE Meetings of the London and Newcastle Districts, not being yet completely reported, their publication is delayed till a future opportunity. Township Meetings have also been held in the Home and Eastern Districts, of which no reports have been sent in. It is now again requested of the Clerks of such Meetings, to report them, by sending a copy of minutes of meeting—if, in the Western, London, or Home Districts,—to *George Hamilton, Esq. Hamilton, Gore*—if, in the Johnstown, Eastern, or Ottawa Districts,—to *Thomson & Dettlor, Merchants, Kingston*: and, it is particularly to be observed, that where no Township Meetings have yet taken place, that **SATURDAY, 29th AUGUST, AT 2 O'CLOCK AFTERNOON**, is fixed for that purpose, at the places respectively, where the last Meetings were held, for the choice of Town officers;—also, that the Township Representatives are to meet on **MONDAY, 31st AUGUST**, to choose District Representatives.
—See Appendix, page first, and last.

Errata.—In page 11th of the appendix, for the lands of the Crown, read and the lands of the Crown.

In page 16th. of the Appendix, for Mr. Nathan Hicok, do. (rear and front of) Yonge—read Mr. Nathan Hicok, do. rear of Leeds and Landsdown; Benoni Wiltse, do. rear and front of Yonge.

Meeting of the Upper Canadian Convention, of Friends to Enquiry.

YORK, Monday, July 6th, 1818.

This day a Convention, consisting of persons chosen according to the rules prescribed in the pamphlet, entitled, "*Principles and Proceedings of the Inhabitants of the District of Niagara for addressing His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, &c.*" met here.

PRESENT,

For the District of Niagara,	{	ROBERT HAMILTON, Esq.
		JOHN CLARK, Esq. J. P.
		Dr. CYRUS SUMNER,
		(Major WILLIAM ROBERTSON, reported absent, from sickness.)
For the District of Gore,	{	RICHARD BEASELY, Esq. J. P.
		Mr. WILLIAM CHISHOLM.
For the London District.		Mr. CALVIN MARTIN.
For the Western do.		Mr. RODERICK DRAKE.
For the Midland do.	{	DANIEL WASHBURN, Esq.
		Mr. DAVIS HAWLEY,
		Mr. PAUL PETERSON
		Mr. JACOB W. MYERS,
		THOMAS COLEMAN, Esq.
For the District of Newcastle,		Mr. ROBERT J. KERR.
For the Johnstown District,		Mr. NATHAN HICOK.
For the Ottawa do.		
For the Home do.		

It being proposed, that these Gentlemen should, each, give satisfactory evidence, by reference to printed and written documents, or on their word of honor, that they had been duly appointed to represent people of the respective Districts (and the same being complied with) the meeting was regularly constituted by calling RICHARD BEASELY, Esq. J. P. to the Chair.

Mr. Beasley opened the business in a neat speech, wherein he deprecated the false and malicious insinuations and assertions thrown out before the public, as to the views and intentions of those who joined in the present business. It was only necessary, he said, to look to the faces now present, to have refuted every possible thought of evil intention.

William J. Kerr, Esq. J. P. was named, and chosen, Secretary for this Convention, and Daniel Washburn, Esq. Assistant Secretary.

It was then moved and carried, that Mr. Gourlay be admitted to assist in the deliberations of the present occasion—to speak, but not to vote. Mr. Gourlay, hereupon, came forward, and addressing himself to the chair, expressed his great satisfaction at seeing the measures which he had had the happiness to suggest to the public of Upper Canada, so far matured, in the meeting of this convention:—He said that these measures would have had the most complete success, but for unforeseen & unexpected influences:—that it was obvious, from the beginning, that many men, accustomed to draw profit from corruption, or enjoyment from the exercise of arbitrary power, would oppose measures tending to refresh the body-politic and restrain the licentiousness of ill-regulated authority; but, it could not have been supposed that there would have appeared men so base, as to injure a good and great public cause, from mere wanton malevolence, or, to gratify private pique and revenge; far less, that any of those men who represented the people in Parliament, would take arms against measures, not only pure, but having in view the very ends which the Assembly had repeatedly strove to attain.—That such had been the case, was however, unfortunately too true; and the machinations of such parties had held back that frank and confiding support to the cause, which certainly would have prevailed throughout, from the unbiassed feelings of the people. Mr. G. said, that, from his knowledge of the public mind, there was only required a little time to get over every difficulty raised by lying reports and evil influences,—that he had positive information, that even already, many people, who had been at first staggered under ignorance of the truth, and the novelty of proposed measures, were fast adopting more liberal sentiments, and heartily wishing us well, though they had lost the opportunity of chusing Representatives to speak for them on this occasion:—that it would be of infinite consequence to give time for reflection; and, as there was but one great interest in the country, so there might be the most harmonious effort possible made to promote it. Under circumstances, then, he would propose a change of measures:—he would propose, instead of sending home a Commission, directly, to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, that a Deputation should wait on the Governor, as soon as arrived, or, should proceed to meet him at Quebec:—that this Deputation should present two petitions,—one to the Prince, with a request, that, he (the Governor) should immediately send home the same to be presented at the first levee:—that another petition should be presented to himself, praying, that he would immediately dissolve the present Parliament, and issue writs for a new election,—that he would meet the new Parliament with all possible dispatch, and recommend, as its first great object, (after getting the annual supply voted,) to proceed to an enquiry into the state of the Province, and have a Commission appointed to go home with the result, in time to have the same laid before the Imperial Parliament, in the early part of next session.—Mr. G. said, that in his address of the 2d of April, he had asserted that there was little to be expected from change of Representatives or Governors.—

He would now qualify that assertion. The appointment of the Duke of Richmond to be Governor-in-chief of the Canadas, was an auspicious event. The Duke of Richmond was a rare character,—one who had proved that Royalty itself could not make him stoop to indignity, and one who had nobly supported the rights of the people of England. He had long ago maintained, that every man who paid taxes should have a vote in Parliamentary election, and his opinion had been proudly quoted by the lovers of rational reform, upon every occasion since. In this country we had the fullest privileges as to the choice of Representatives,—the fullest security that taxation never could be made oppressive to the community. We had nothing to expect from the Duke of Richmond as to this; but, his former conduct, and declared opinions, were quite cheering to our hopes, of his heartily joining in every effort for the public good; and, Sir Peregrine Maitland, with such an example and with such an adviser, we might be well assured, will be forward in performing honorably and well, the high and important duties entrusted to him. As to a change of Representatives there was, at this time, considerable hope. Men's minds were now roused to the full importance of having respectable characters in assembly: they had seen the evil consequences from too much indifference as to this; and, in fact, the Parliamentary character had fallen so low, that respectable men had, for years, declined coming forward, as candidates. Now, he was convinced that men of solid worth and judgment would offer themselves; and, that while all were alive to public interests, every voter would seriously think of the character he supported. There were now in assembly several men quite a disgrace to their situation. These men, he thought, would certainly not now be returned; and such as were still in favour with their constituents from uprightness of intention (and there was a considerable proportion that he believed to be worthy honest men, such as perhaps could not be excelled)—that he was sure these men would resume their duties with increased energy and determination, to recover to the country that character and credit which their remissness had unhappily tended to degrade and dissipate."

These measures requiring time for reflection, it was moved by Mr. Washburn, and carried, that this meeting do adjourn till to-morrow at 9 o'clock.

York, Tuesday, 7th July, 1818.

This day the Convention being met, and Richard Beasley, Esq. in the chair,—Mr. Washburn rose, and after making some remarks on the proposals yesterday brought forward, submitted the following Resolutions for consideration—viz:

Resolved 1st. That whilst this Convention holds it one of the most sacred rights of British subjects, at all times, directly, to petition the Throne of their Sovereign, relative to their grievances, yet, nevertheless, under the present peculiar existing circumstances of

this country, the Members of this Convention, as well out of respect to that honorable body, the Commons House of Assembly of Upper Canada, as for other causes, deem it their most indispensable duty, on this important occasion, to recommend, in the strongest terms, to their fellow subjects resident in this Province, a spirited, formal, and respectful application to that Honorable House, for an enquiry into the state of the Province.

2d. That John Clark, Cyrus Sumner & Roderick Drake, Esqrs. be a permanent committee, for the management of the affairs of this Convention, and that they, as soon as may be practicable, prepare a respectful Petition, praying for enquiry and expressive of grievances, (for the immediate sanction of this Convention) to be by them circulated for subscribers, and presented at the bar of the House of Assembly, at their next ensuing session.

3d. That the said committee be further authorised to frame an address to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, on the subject of grievances believed to exist in Upper Canada, which, when approved of by this Convention, shall be submitted by the Committee, together with the Petition above mentioned to the Honorable the House of Assembly, at their next meeting, for their alteration and amendment.

(Signed)

D. WASHBURN.

The following Resolutions, founded upon the proposals of Mr. Gourlay, were then submitted, viz :

1st. *Resolved*, That this Convention, assembled for the declared specific purpose of sending home a Commission to England, with an address to His Royal Highness, the Prince Regent, on the state of public affairs in this Province, sees good reasons for departing from the prescribed course of proceeding ; or, at least, for delaying the execution of the plan of procedure first intended.

1st. *Because*, various unfair advantages have been unexpectedly taken, by weak, wicked, and selfish men, to deceive the public as to the true and legitimate objects in view, as well as to stir up doubts with regard to the propriety and legality of the measures proposed; thereby distracting the public mind, and creating false fears and alarms.

2d. *Because*, by a little delay, and with further means being used to dissipate alarms, and convince the people of the deceptions practised towards them, a more universal concurrence will be ensured in every required measure, and a better chance of succeeding in the great objects in view.

3d. *Because*, the appointment of the Duke of Richmond, to be Governor in Chief of the Canadas, has generated hopes which could have sprung from the appointment of no other individual whatever.

4th. *Because*, the people of this Province are now so effectually roused to a just sense of the bad consequences of mal-administration, and weak legislative proceedings, that when Parliament again

meets, there is every hope, that, narrowly watched by the public eye, its every motion will be guided and determined by better principles and more manly resolutions,—that, in short, the virtue of Parliament will be braced and upheld by the virtue of the people.

2d. *Resolved*, that, under all circumstances, the Members of this Convention conceive, that they will best maintain their own honour and the interest of their constituents, by appointing a Deputation to wait on Sir Peregrine Maitland, as soon as he arrives in this Province, or to proceed, if deemed expedient, to meet him at Quebec, to entreat a conference with him, and to present him with the printed principles & proceedings of this Convention, & of its supporters.

3d. *Resolved*, that this Deputation shall bear along two Petitions, —one to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, expressive of the loyalty and dutiful consideration of this Convention to the Royal dignity, and calling the Royal attention to the conduct of affairs in the land granting department of Upper Canada, as well as to the means which His Royal Highness possesses, of redressing *instantly*, the grievances of claimants for sufferings by war, & of militia men expecting promised lands,—which Petition, the Deputies shall beg of Sir Peregrine Maitland to send home, and have presented to the Prince, at his first public levee, by such person as Sir Peregrine shall think proper to confide in.

4th. *Resolved*, that this measure is more especially necessary to maintain the Right of all British subjects in petitioning the Throne, in opposition to notorious assertions, that public petitions ought, necessarily, to be presented to the Throne, through the medium of the House of Assembly, a practice which has no precedent, and which would be vitiating one of the most important articles of the Bill of Rights, that of direct petitioning.

5th. *Resolved*, that the other Petition shall be addressed to Sir Peregrine Maitland himself, as Lieutenant Governor of Upper Canada, praying him to call Parliament together as speedily as possible, that enquiry into the state of the Province may be instituted, and a Commission appointed to go home with the result, in such time as the same may be brought, by Ministers of the Crown, before the Imperial Parliament, at an early stage of its next session; and, submitting to the judgment of Sir Peregrine Maitland, on reasons given, whether it would not be proper to dissolve the present Commons House of Assembly, and issue writs for a new election of Representatives of the people of this Province.

6th. *Resolved*, that a committee be nominated to draft the above mentioned Petitions, and report the same to this Convention.

7th. *Resolved*, that, whatever be the consequence of these resolutions, and of any temporary change of procedure, it is the duty of this Convention, to devise measures by which the great cause in which its members and supporters are engaged, shall be maintained; and, that no dissolution of the present system of representing the WILL of so numerous a body of people, as have already declared for the cause, shall take place, till the enquiry into the state of this

Province has been realized, and those beneficial objects obtained which are absolutely essential to the well-being of the Province.

8th. *Resolved*, that this Convention, the better to denote the purity and unity of its object, as well as distinguish it from Conventions, formed to controul and command public affairs, shall be denominated "THE UPPER CANADIAN CONVENTION OF FRIENDS TO ENQUIRY."

9th. *Resolved*, that to facilitate internal management and to decide on all matters, of mere arrangement, two branch Conventions shall be formed,—one to be constituted by Representatives from the five Upper Districts, viz. the Home, Gore, Niagara, London and Western, to meet at Ancaster,—the other to be constituted by Representatives from the five lower Districts, viz. the Newcastle, Midland, Johnstown, Eastern and Ottawa, to meet at Kingston.

10th. *Resolved*, that the Representatives, nowhere convened, do, as they belong respectively to each of these Branches, form themselves into two Committees, each to choose its own Treasurer and Secretary,—to fix on a certain day for the first Branch Conventional meeting, respectively at Ancaster and Kingston, and, to report to-morrow, to this Convention, as to these appointments:—that future Branch Meetings be held either by adjournment, or, as may be announced by the Secretaries in the Newspapers, or otherwise, and upon the requisition of three District Representatives; but no Branch Conventional meeting to be considered regular without the presence of four District Representatives.

11th. *Resolved*, that the Treasurers of Districts, shall if called upon, surrender their funds, or any required part thereof, to the Treasurers of their respective Branch Conventions, on an order signed by the Chairman of any regularly constituted meeting of such Branch Conventions.

12th. *Resolved*, that a Report of all proceedings of the Branch Conventions shall be mutually exchanged by their respective Secretaries, each dispatching his report on the first Monday of every month, and that further correspondence shall take place, if necessary.

13th. *Resolved*, that as the District of Niagara has hitherto borne all charges in bringing forward this business, that it shall be a first consideration of the Upper Branch Convention, to settle up all charges out of the funds generally collected within its range, and then to draw on the Treasurer of the lower Branch Convention for one half of the whole.

14th. *Resolved*, that the Branch Conventions shall endeavour to get the people of those Townships, where no Representatives &c. have been chosen, to meet and still to chuse such Representatives, together with Clerks and Committee men; but if this cannot be brought about universally, then it will be desirable to have an agent or agents, appointed in each unrepresented Township, that any one or more persons may have opportunity of aiding and assisting the general measures with their names and contributions.

15th. Resolved, that in case it shall be deemed expedient by the Branch Conventions, that this general Convention shall assemble at York, for any particular, or unforeseen matter of deliberation, that then the branch Conventions shall, by correspondence, fix the day and have the same advertised in all the Newspapers of the Province, besides advising, each individual member, by letter.

Motion, by Mr. Washburn, that every member of this Convention, desirous of making any motion, shall commit the same to writing, in order that it may be entered in the Journals, by the Secretary, in due order—seconded by Mr. R. Kerr—Tuesday, 7th July, 1818—*carried*.

(ADDITIONAL.)

Resolved 4th, That the monies received for the purpose of sending Commissioners to England with the Petition for the redress of grievances, be, by District Treasurers, remitted to Messrs. Thompson & Dettlor, at Kingston, to be applied by the Committee, in furtherance of measures for sending home said Petition, through the medium of the House of Assembly.

5th. That the proceedings of this meeting be published, and that the Convention do now adjourn, till summoned to meet again, at such time as the committee shall direct.

(Signed)

D. WASHBURN.

Seconded by Robert Kerr. July 7th, 1818. (received.)

Moved, by Mr. Drake and seconded by Mr. Hawley, that Mr. Washburn's proposals, as well as Mr. Gourlay's be left to a select Committee, composed of three or more of the Gentlemen present, and representing the several Districts throughout the Province.—It is further moved that Messrs. John Clark, Robert Hamilton and Thomas Coleman, do act as a Committee, and that all such further papers, coming either from Mr. Washburn or Mr. Gourlay, be received by them and that the said Committee, shall make such report as they deem most expedient, the same however to be laid before the Members of the Convention for their consideration.

Tuesday, 7th July, 1818.

(Signed) { R. DRAKE,
DAVIS HAWLEY.

(Carried, Mr. Drake being added to the Committee.)

Moved, that every Member of this Convention, having written communications, either as an Address or a Resolve, shall submit the same to the Chairman.

(Signed)

THOMAS COLEMAN,

Carried.

Seconded by R. DRAKE.

Resolved, That we do now adjourn until 9 o'clock to-morrow, unless the select Committee shall desire meeting sooner.

July 7, 1818.

(Signed) { D. WASHBURN,
R. DRAKE.

Wednesday, July 8th, 1818.

Which day the Convention being constituted by Richard Beasely, Esq. taking the Chair; the Select Committee gave in the following Report on the business submitted to their consideration—Mr. Coleman first reading an Address to the Meeting on the same subject.

The Committee, composed of Messrs. Clark, Drake, Hamilton and Coleman, report, that the causes stated by Mr. Gourlay, as laid before the Committee, are such as induce them to recommend to their brother members that the proposals of Mr. Gourlay be adopted in preference to those of Mr. Washburn, the material difference being only that of presenting the Petition to the Prince Regent through Sir Peregrine Maitland, instead of the present House of Assembly, which would, by adopting Mr. Washburn's measures, cause much delay, and deviate from those principles which we have and do now profess, that of petitioning the Prince, direct, from the subject.

(Signed) { ROBERT HAMILTON,
THOMAS COLEMAN,
R. DRAKE,
JOHN CLARK.

Mr. Washburn's and Mr. Gourlay's Resolutions being read over, the latter were generally approved of; but, a proposal being made, that they should be read a second time, and passed severally, this course was adopted.

Mr. Robert Kerr voted against all the Resolutions; Mr. Washburn voted against all but the 8th: the rest of the Convention agreed to the Resolutions.

Mr. Washburn *moved* that the resolutions drawn up and submitted by him be recorded by the secretary on the Journals, immediately after those adopted by the majority of the Convention.

Wednesday, 8th July, 1818. (Signed) { D. WASHBURN,
Carried. { Seconded by R. KERR.

Dr. Sumner *moves* that William Kerr and George Hamilton, Esquires, be admitted to the sitting of this Convention, and have the privilege of expressing their opinions on all subjects brought before us—but not to vote. Seconded by Mr. Hawley, and *carried*.

Moved, by Mr. Wm. Kerr, that Mr. Reuben Preston, Representative for the Township of Vaughan, Home District, be admitted to the sitting of this Convention, and have the privilege of expressing his opinion on all subjects; but not to vote—seconded by Mr. Washburn, and *carried*.

Mr. Washburn *moved* that the Reports and Resolutions of the select Committee, chosen yesterday, be recorded by the Secretary ; but not adopted by this Convention.

(Signed) { D. WASHBURN,
And seconded by ROBERT J. KERR.
lost.

A letter from Mr. Stuart of Colchester being read to the Convention by Mr. Drake, Mr. Gourlay *moved*, seconded by Mr. Drake, that the thanks of this Convention be tendered to Mr. Stuart of Colchester for his friendly and able communication, the same to be conveyed by a letter from the Secretary of this Convention—*carried.*

Moved, that a Committee be appointed to draw up an Address to Sir Peregrine Maitland, according to the resolutions approved of this day, and that Mr. Peterson, Mr. Drake, Mr. Martin, Mr. Gourlay, and Mr. Coleman do constitute the above Committee.—*carried.*

(Signed) { ROBERT HAMILTON,
Seconded by JOHN CLARK.

Moved, by Mr. Gourlay, seconded and *carried*, that the Representatives, here present, from the Newcastle, Midland and Johnstown Districts, do constitute a Committee for the purpose specified in a Resolution of this day, *carried*, viz. to chuse a Secretary and Treasurer for the lower Branch Convention,—also to fix a day for the first meeting of the said Branch Convention,—such appointments to be reported to-morrow to this Convention—*moved and carried*, the same, for the upper Branch Convention.

Moved, that this Convention do adjourn till eleven o'clock to-morrow morning.

(Signed) { ROBERT HAMILTON,
PAUL PETERSON.

Wednesday, July 8th, 1818.—Agreed.

York. Thursday, 9th July, 1818.

The Convention being constituted by Mr. Beasely taking the Chair, the following report was read.

York, 9th July, 1818.

The Committee, appointed yesterday, to draw out an Address to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, and to His Excellency Sir Peregrine Maitland, now submit, that the address, with some alterations.

which appeared in the Pamphlet of the Niagara District, may do for the first; and, they herewith offer a Draft of an address to Sir Peregrine Maitland, for consideration.

(Signed) { THOMAS COLEMAN,
PAUL PETERSON,
ROBERT GOURLAY,
R. DRAKE,
C. MARTIN.

*To Sir Peregrine Maitland, K. C. B. Lieutenant Governor
of Upper Canada, &c. &c. &c.*

May it please your Excellency,

IN my own name, and that of thousands of the Inhabitants of this Province, which you are destined to govern, I beg leave to address your Excellency, dutifully and affectionately—We would say, that, the people of this Province only want your confidence, the more to deserve it.

Surely a people, who, for three years, withstood every assault of an insidious, a daring, and revengeful enemy, merely for the maintenance of British Sovereignty, need not dwell on expressions of loyalty, or, be anxious about tests of respect for him who is sent to represent the royal presence among them. On these subjects there can be but one undivided sentiment; and, on the present occasion, that sentiment must be proudly elate with the additional consideration, that he, who now comes to occupy the highest dignity amongst us, was tutored under the immortal Wellington, and has, for his friend and adviser, a man no less dear to the lovers of rational liberty:—Yes, Sir, we will be frank in confessing, that your near connection with the Duke of Richmond, and the arrival of that great man in these Provinces, as Governor in Chief, generates in our breasts sensations which no other fortune could have inspired.

Upper Canada had, during the last twenty years, many Governors; but, these twenty years only gave experience of disappointment, in the administration of civil affairs:—these twenty years had almost extinguished in our breasts every hope of good, from the change of Governors;—but, we now feel the influence of a latent spark,—we are now sanguine in looking forward to more cheering times, and to the possession of every advantage which the British constitution has, so liberally, to bestow.

The same hands, from which you receive this Address, will present you with a printed detail of “principles & proceedings,” which for some months past, have been agitating the public mind in this Province. It will require but a glance to be assured, that serious causes must exist for such agitation; and, you will find that the most anxious desire of the great majority of those whom you have been sent to govern, is, that enquiry may be made into the state of this Province, by which every real cause for agitation may cease.

Your Excellency, will find, from the Journals of the Provincial Parliament, that the subject of enquiry has been repeatedly brought forward in the Commons House of Assembly; and, you will find, on the same record, but too good reasons for despair of full success in that quarter. The Provincial Parliament is not, indeed, competent, with its best endeavours, to enquire into every matter which retards the improvement of Upper Canada, nor has it authority to correct every evil. Those, who now address your Excellency, being aware of this, and, worn out with disappointment, had resolved to send home a Commission, praying His Royal Highness the Prince Regent to cause enquiry immediately to be made, that the Imperial Parliament might proceed to interfere upon information solemnly obtained. Circumstances induce them now to delay this measure, and to entreat your Excellency to summon, with all convenient speed, the Provincial Parliament, that this grand measure, big with the fate of Canada, may yet originate, and proceed, from the most desirable source,—from the regularly constituted representation of the people.

In little more than two months the weighty labours of harvest will be over, and, should Parliament be in Session before the end of September, every necessary step could be taken there to prepare the way for enquiry in the Imperial Parliament, at an early stage of its next session. This is what we anxiously desire; but if your Excellency shall see fit, the better to accomplish the desired object, to dissolve the present Commons House of Assembly, and issue writs for assembling a new set of Representatives, we would more particularly rejoice, and be greatly more confident of success.

We must, with shame, acknowledge to your Excellency, that the Inhabitants of Upper Canada have, hitherto, paid too little regard to the character of those whom they have chosen to represent them in Parliament; and, most unworthy persons have sat in Assembly. Not only has this been the case; but, from an indifference to the course of public affairs,—from a heedlessness of the people at large to Parliamentary proceedings, the most sioevenly habits have been confirmed, and the most indecent irregularities witnessed. We shall not tire your Excellency with a recital, but of a few instances, in point; nor, shall we go back to quote the most shocking facts: we shall only refer to a few transactions of the present Parliament. It has sat two sessions. At the opening of the first session, when matter of vital import lay for consideration—even just grounds for impeachment of the then Governor—day after day was occupied with a squabble about the conduct of an individual out of doors, a subject altogether below the notice of a grave Assembly. Bye and bye, the annual supply was voted, and put at the disposal of the Governor, who, by arbitrary acts had thwarted the laws of the land; and then, at an extraordinary late season, Resolutions were brought forward, in the teeth of the Governor's known sentiments, and seemingly only to provoke his displeasure. The Resolutions were excellent; but, they were woefully mistimed. The Governor provoked, forgot himself,—forgot that solemnity which, at home, is ever par-

ticularly regarded :—he went up to Parliament, without the appearance of state,—without the ceremony of notice, or due consultation, and hastily put a period to the session.

The Parliament was again summoned in February last. It was expected that some degree of spirit would have been manifested, in shew of displeasure for insulted dignity,—it was expected, that the consideration of Resolutions, of high importance to the public weal, would be instantly resumed. The conduct of this session, however, fell even lower than before. An offer of recompence for sufferers in war, unhappily introduced into the speech from the Throne, and only tending to insult the feelings of a large body of people, was replied to in most disgusting terms of acquiescence, by the Representatives of these very people, while the able Resolutions, brought forward at the close of the preceding session, were left neglected, as if in acknowledgment, that the Assembly had been deservedly chastised for their production. A series of trifling measures filled up the main portion of the session : the legislative Council, no doubt encouraged by the low and dastardly conduct of members of Assembly, assumed rights, which had long been denied, even to British Peers : the annual supply was not even passed, and, finally, members stole off home, so as not to leave a House to hear the speech of dismissal, which the Administrator delivered, as if in contempt, from the chair.

The people at large have at last been roused to a just sense of all this trifling and indecency. They see their property reduced a full half, from the mal-administration of good laws : they see prosperity completely checked : they witness discontent and poverty under the most genial clime, and rooted in the most fertile soil : they anticipate subjection to a foreign power, if war should again be waged : they dread a separation from the mother country, even without war, which they would most grievously lament :—they wish to make an effort at recovery from all this disgrace and danger :—they entreat your instant and earnest aid to assist them.

Should a new Parliament be called, we are assured, that notoriously bad characters would no longer be chosen to represent the people :—we are assured, that the most respectable men would now come forward as candidates, who have hitherto disdained to sit in a degraded House :—we are assured that all, both the people, by watching their Representatives, and the Representatives themselves, would be alert and zealous in the performance of duty :—we are assured that a new and better æra would commence.

I move that the heads of the address (now read) to Sir Peregrine Maitland, be adopted by the Convention.

(Signed) { ROBERT HAMILTON,
 { J. CLARK.

Thursday, 9th July, 1818.—*Carried.*

Mr. Washburn, protests against the adoption of the address to Sir Peregrine Maitland, now read.

(Signed) D. WASHBURN.

York, 9th July, 1818.

I protest against the proceedings of this Convention, in adopting the heads of an address to Sir Peregrine Maitland, just read.

(Signed) ROBERT J. KERR.

July 9th, 1818.

Moved, that Mr. Beasely, Mr. Clark, Mr. Geo. Hamilton, Mr. Coleman, Mr. Chisholm, Mr. Drake, and Mr. Wm. Kerr, be a permanent Committee of Management, after the adjournment of this Convention, and till its next meeting:—that they, or any four of them, shall have power to constitute the Deputation to Sir Peregrine Maitland; and that they also finish the wording and style of the petitions to the Prince Regent and Sir Peregrine Maitland, which, the chairman, Mr. Beasely, shall have power to sign for this Convention, after its adjournment.

(Signed) { ROBERT HAMILTON,
R. DRAKE.

9th July, 1818.—*Carried*.

In conformity to an appointment of yesterday, the Representatives from the different Districts, viz: the Newcastle, Midland and Johnstown, being a committee, do appoint C. Thomson, secretary, for the lower Branch Convention; and Messrs. Thomson and Detlor, treasurer; and, that the first Saturday of August, be appointed for the meeting of Representatives of the lower Branch Convention, at the house of Robert Walker, in Kingston, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

(Signed) { THOS. COLEMAN,
PAUL PETERSON,
JACOB W. MYERS,
DAVIS HAWLEY,
NATHAN HICKOK.

Thursday, July 9th, 1818.

York, July 9th, 1818.

Agreeable to a Resolution passed yesterday for the purpose of choosing a Treasurer and Secretary for the upper Branch Convention, and to appoint a time for said Convention to meet at Ancaster, there to regulate the affairs of the following Districts, viz. Niagara, Gore, London, Western, and Home Districts,—the Committee do appoint Monday, the 20th inst. as a proper day to meet at Ancaster, at Newton's Inn, 10 o'clock A. M. and do nominate Col. Richard Beasely, *Treasurer*, and George Hamilton, Esq. *Secretary*.

(Signed) { WM. CHISHOLM,
JOHN CLARK,
CYRUSSUMNER,
CALVIN MARTIN,
RODERICK DRAKE.

Moved, that should Sir Perigrine Maitland not arrive in Upper Canada, during this month of July, it shall be in the power of the Members of the Deputation to forward the Address to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, to England, there to be presented, as to them shall seem proper—either at the Levée, or, at the Public Office, competent to receive Petitions to the Throne.

(Signed) { R. HAMILTON,
THOS. COLEMAN.

Thursday, July 9th, 1818.—*Carried.*

Moved, that this Convention, do adjourn till 9 o'clock to-morrow morning.

(Signed) { R. HAMILTON,
CYRUS SUMNER.

York, Friday, July 10th, 1818.

Mr. Beasely having taken the chair of the Convention of Friends to Enquiry:—it was *moved*, that the minutes of the Convention, be read by appointment of the Chairman.

(Signed) { THOS. COLEMAN,
DAVIS HAWLEY.

10th July, 1818.

The minutes of each day's meeting, were then read severally, and signed by the chairman.

Moved, that if no advertisement be published, or notice given, by the Branch Conventions, for the meeting of this general Convention of Friends to Enquiry, then, this Convention shall not meet again here, till the first Monday of February, 1819; and which meeting may be delayed, one, two, three, or four weeks later, should the Branch Conventions see reasons for the same, and, by advertisement and writing, as before agreed upon, notify to all and each of the members any other day of meeting, not beyond the first Monday of March, 1819, such notice being published and written before the first day of January, 1819.

(Signed) { R. DRAKE,
W. CHISHOLM.

Carried.

Moved, that should there be no call of Parliament, or dissolution before the first of September, nor any hope of the Session commencing before the middle of October, then it shall be the duty of the Branch Conventions, to have petitions drawn up and signed all over their respective Districts, both to the Prince Regent and the Commons House of the Imperial Parliament, to be sent home without delay, by a Commission consisting of two persons chosen by the Up-

per, & two by the lower Branch Convention: the secretary of this general Convention to accompany, and be the secretary of the Commission.

(Signed) { R. DRAKE,
Wm. CHISHOLM.

Carried.

Moved, that the permanent committee shall have power to call a general meeting of this Convention, on advertisement and written notice to each member, signed by five of the said committees.

(Signed) { R. DRAKE,
Wm. CHISHOLM.

Carried.

Moved, that a duplicate of all communications which pass between the Branch Conventions, be, at the same time, sent to the secretary of this Convention, to be, by him, made known to the permanent committee.

(Signed) { ROBERT GOURLAY,
JOHN CLARK.

Carried.

Moved, that the permanent committee shall publish in the newspapers or otherwise, the whole, or what part of the transactions of this Convention, and other meetings of "Friends to Enquiry," as shall to them seem fit, and that any person whatever, shall have a right to obtain extracts from the journals, in whole or part, on offering a competent remuneration, for trouble, to the secretary.

(Signed) { R. DRAKE,
PAUL PETERSON.

Carried.

Motion, that the secretary of the Convention, W. J. Kerr, Esq. be indemnified for stationary made use of, and other incidental expenses, in his correspondence, and other duties of his office.

(Signed) { Wm. CHISHOLM,
PAUL PETERSON.

Carried.

Moved, that Mr. Wm. Kerr, Mr. Geo. Hamilton and Mr. Preston, accept the thanks of this Convention, for their assistance during the sitting.

(Signed) { JOHN CLARK.
THOS. COLEMAN.

Carried.

Moved, that Robert Gourlay, Esq. receive the thanks of this Convention, for his able and manly conduct in promoting the general welfare of the Province, and for his assiduous attention at this Convention—and that they hold themselves bound to support the

measures adopted by the Niagara committee, submitted by him to them.

(Signed) { THOs. COLEMAN,
JOHN CLARK.

Carried.

Moved, that opportunity has been given to Mr. Robert Kerr, to show cause, for the letter, which, with his signature appeared in the Upper Canada Gazette, of the 2d of July, and also in the Niagara Spectator of the same week, reflecting on the character of Mr. Robert Gourlay; and, that he has not been able to bring the members forward a single reason, sufficient to convince this Convention, of the propriety of a publication so strange and unnatural:—that a letter be written by the Chairman, to each of the Township Representatives, requesting them immediately to meet and chuse another person, to represent them on all occasions connected with the business of these meetings, and who may appear for them, if possible, at the meeting of the Branch Convention of the Friends to Enquiry, at Kingston, the first Saturday of August next, at the House of Mr. Walker, Innkeeper, at 2 o'clock, P. M.

(Signed) { R. DRAKE,
Wm. CHISHOLM.

Carried.

Moved, that the thanks of this Convention, be presented to the Chairman, for his most able and assiduous attention to the business of this Convention.

(Signed) { ROBT. HAMILTON,
JOHN CLARK.

Carried.

Moved, that this Convention do adjourn till the first Monday of February, 1819, or till such time as may be advertised according to the Resolutions, of this Convention.

(Signed) { THOs. COLEMAN,
ROBT. HAMILTON.

Carried.

Correct copy of the Minutes of the Convention.

(Signed) RICHARD BEASELY, Chairman.

APPENDIX.

20th July, 1818.

AT a meeting of the Upper Branch Convention, held this day at Newton's Inn, Village of Ancaster, the following members present, viz :

RICHARD BEASLEY,
WILLIAM CHISHOLM,
JOHN CLARK,
ROBERT HAMILTON,
RODERICK DRAKE

} Esquires.

The meeting was regularly constituted by calling Richard Beasley Esq. to the Chair.

Moved: that, the Chairman write to the Treasurers of each of the following Districts, viz. to Mr. Adams, for Niagara, Mr. Hamilton, for Gore, Mr. Prideux Girty, for the Western District, to send him statements of accounts and the balances now in their hands:—Also, to Mr. Calvin Martin (Representative for the London District) desiring him to request of the Treasurer of the London District, to do the same.

(Signed)

JOHN CLARK,
ROBERT HAMILTON,

seconded by

Carried,

R. B. Ch'n. B. C.

Moved, that all the charges incurred by the Niagara District be stated in account, by the Secretary, and be handed to the Treasurer of the Upper Branch Convention, that he may discharge the same, out of the general fund as soon as deposited.

(Signed)

JOHN CLARK,
WM. CHISHOM,

seconded by

Adopted,

R. B. Ch'n.

Moved, that Saturday the 29th, of August at 2 o'clock, afternoon, be the time appointed for the different Townships meeting, where no meeting has yet been held, to chuse Representatives, Clerks &c. and that the Township Representatives, then chosen, do meet on Monday 31st, at the same hour to chuse District Representatives.

(Signed)

ROBERT HAMILTON,
RODERICK DRAKE.

seconded by

Carried,

R. B. Ch'n.

Moved, that the Secretary of this Upper Branch Convention, do write and forward an Address to the Inhabitants of the several Townships, yet unrepresented, recommending that they do hold

Township meetings, and give their support to petitioning the Prince Regent, &c. relative to the state of the Province, and inviting their District Representatives to attend the next branch Conventional meeting.

(Signed)

RODERICK DRAKE,
JOHN CLARK.

seconded by

Carried,

R. B. Ch'n.

Moved, that the Secretary of this Branch Convention do write to Frederick Yeward, Esq. acquainting him, that the sending home a Commission, to England, being delayed, it was conceived unnecessary to lay the papers, concerning the Indian affairs, before the Convention at York ; but that the same shall not be forgotten.

(Signed)

JOHN CLARK,
WM CHISHOLM.

seconded by

Carried,

R. B. Ch'n.

Moved, that this Convention do adjourn until a further day of meeting be appointed by the Secretary of this Convention, on the requisition of three District Representatives, according to the 10th resolution of the General Convention.

(Signed)

R. DRAKE,
WM. CHISHOLM.

seconded by

Carried.

R. B. Ch'n.

21st JULY, 1818.

Which day, the permanent Committee of management being met, at Ancaster, present, Richard Beasley, Wm. Kerr, Wm. Chisholm, John Clark, George Hamilton, and Roderick Drake, Esqrs.

Resolved, that they would best discharge the duties expected of them, by adopting the following Address, and appending to it those of the Niagara and Midland Districts.

To, His Royal Highness, George, Prince of Wales, Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, &c. &c. &c.

The humble address of RICHARD BEASLEY, Esquire, Chairman of the UPPER CANADIAN CONVENTION OF FRIENDS TO ENQUIRY.

May it please Your Royal Highness,

In the name of thousands of the Inhabitants of Upper-Canada, it is my province to testify the dutiful and affectionate regard which they bear to Your Royal Person and dignity ; and, in the utmost sincerity, I may declare my confident belief, that the Royal Sceptre is not swayed over more loyal subjects than those who dwell in this distant colony.

Under peculiar circumstances of difficulty, disappointment, and distress, these loyal subjects had resolved on sending home a Commission to England, humbly to entreat, before the Throne of their Sovereign, the immediate interference of the Royal authority. The loyal subjects, on farther reflection, have determined, on a change of measures, or, at least to delay the execution of what was at first proposed. Deeply impressed, however, with the vast importance of the subject, as well to themselves, as to the general interests of the British Empire, they have deemed it proper that their intentions should be made known to Your Royal Highness; and, with this view, I am desired to annex, to this address, drafts of two others, which were in preparation; and, which had so far received the approbation of inhabitants of the two most populous Districts of this Province.

Should your Royal Highness condescend to peruse these documents, they will be found to contain strong assertions; but, when investigation takes place, these assertions can be proved, to be no less true than they are strong.

It is now the desire of the loyal subjects, on whose behalf I address your Royal Highness, that the Parliament of Upper Canada should be called together for the more special purpose of making enquiry into the state of this Province, and, for having a Commission appointed to go home with the result, in such time as the same may be laid before the Imperial Parliament, at an early period of its next ensuing session. Should such desire be gratified, this most necessary enquiry will commence in the manner most creditable to the legislative authorities of the Province; and, will afford the fullest satisfaction to those whom I represent. Lest it should not be so determined, I am desired, by my constituents, most humbly to entreat that your Royal Highness, will keep in view the great objects set forth in the annexed Drafts: and, in the event of a Commission approaching the Throne from the body of His Majesty's loyal subjects in Upper-Canada, that the Royal ear may be turned towards them with such love and confidence, as may be expected, by a people, who have shed their blood, and sacrificed every worldly comfort, in the cause of British Sovereignty.

Entreating your Royal Highness graciously to accept every consideration of regard which is due by subjects to the Son and Representative of their Sovereign.

I have the high honour to subscribe, this first day of August, in the year One Thousand Eight Hundred and Eighteen.

For myself and others.

The Committee, on consulting with regard to the Address to Sir Peregrine Maitland, found that the language may be altered to advantage, and resolved to meet at St. Catharines, on Saturday, 1st August, that both this and the former may be engrossed and signed.

The Committee further resolved that an Appendix should be added to the publication of the transactions of the General Convention

containing the minutes of this Committee and of the Branch Convention, the Midland District Address, minutes of District meetings, with the names of all officers chosen at Township Meetings, that have not before been published.

For the Committee, WM. J. KERR.

St. Catharines, 1st. August, 1818.

This day the permanent Committee having met, at this place, present, Richard Beasley, George Hamilton, Roderick Drake, Wm. Kerr, and John Clark, Esquires, the Petition to Sir Peregrine Maitland being reviewed and altered, the same was engrossed and signed by Mr. Beasley. The Petition, to the Prince Regent, was also engrossed, signed, and ordered to be transmitted to England for presentation.

It was then proposed and agreed to, that Mr. Beasley should write to the Right Hon. Lord Erskine, requesting the favour of his Lordship to present the Petition to His Royal Highness, the Prince Regent:—Also, that Mr. Beasley's letter and all transactions, up to this time, be published, in conformity with the principles of the friends to enquiry.

WM. KERR, Secretary.

The following are the alterations, &c. made on the Address to Sir Peregrine Maitland, which was submitted to the General Convention.

For, "To Sir Peregrine Maitland"

Insert, To His Excellency Sir Peregrine Maitland.

Insert, The Humble address of Richard Beasley, Esquire, Chairman of the Upper Canadian Convention of Friends to Enquiry.

For, "these twenty years only gave," &c.

Insert, these twenty years, with little exception, only gave, &c.

Expunge, "and most unorthodox persons have sat in Assembly"

For, "the most indecent irregularities"

Insert, great irregularities.

For, "tending to insult"

Insert, tending to distress.

For, "low and dastardly"

Insert, futile and unbecoming.

For, "anticipate subjection"

Insert, fear subjection.

Expunge, "even without war."

For, "notorious bad characters"

Insert, unfit persons.

Expunge, "who have hitherto disuained to sit in a degraded House."

Add, Permit me, Sir, to subscribe, this first day of August, in the year of our Lord One Thousand, Eight Hundred and Eighteen, with every sentiment of respect

Your Excellency's most obedient humble servant.

COPY, LETTER, TO LORD ERSKINE.

St. Catharines, District of Niagara, }
Upper Canada, August 1st, 1818. }

MY LORD,

Your long-tried fidelity to the cause of popular Rights, and your many glorious struggles in behalf of virtuous independence, have suggested the wish, on the part of my Constituents, that I should solicit the honor of having the Address of the Upper Canadian Convention of friends to enquiry, presented, by your Lordship, to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent.

In granting this favour, your Lordship will greatly increase our hopes of success, in the cause which we have espoused; and, it will be a pleasant anticipation, for us, to think, that the prosperity of this Province, so richly gifted by nature, is cherished by the man, whose genius shed the brightest lustre on the British bar, and whose merit alone raised him to the highest dignity which a subject can enjoy.

Permit me, my Lord, to offer to your perusal, a pamphlet, containing the Principles and Proceedings of those, for whom I subscribe myself, with the utmost respect,

Your Lordships very obedient servant.

(Signed)

RICHARD BEASLEY,

To the Right Hon. Lord Erskine, }
Esq. &c. &c }

Meetings of the Midland District, June 6th, 1818.

In the Township of Kingston, at the house of Samuel Purdy, Anthony McGuin, Esq. J. P. in the chair, Daniel Washburn Esq. was elected Representative and John Vincent, Clerk.

In the Township of Elizabeth-Town, at A. P. Forwards, Hotel, Mr. Daniel Perry in the chair, Davis Hawley Esq. was elected Representative, and Dr. George Baker Clerk—also a committee consisting of John C. Wilson, Henry Lasher, Collin McKenzie, William Clow, John Lake Junr. John Fralech Senr. Jehiel Hawley, Senr. Joseph Smith, and Edward Howard.

In the Township of Fredericksburgh, at the house of Daniel Bowen, and Capt. Alexander Clark being in the chair, Mr. Paul Peterson was elected Representative and Cyrenus Freshee, Clerk—Mr. John Clapp, and Mr. Samuel Detlor, a Committee.

In the Township of Adolphus-Town, at the Court House, Willet Casey Esq. M. P. being in the chair, he was elected Representative and George H. Detlor Clerk. Moses Carnahan, Archibald Campbell, Thomas Cook and W. Casey, were appointed a Committee.

In the Township of Richmond, at the house of Joseph Pringle, William Pringle was appointed Representative, and Lewis Ketchum, Clerk,—William L. Bowen, and Francis Vandeboger, a Committee.

In the Township of Hallowell, at the house of Thomas Eyre Mr. Elijah Carley being in the chair, Mr. Benjamin Hubbs was chosen Representative, and E. W. Armstrong, Clerk.

In the Township of Ameliasburgh, at the house of Henry Butler Mr. John Garth being in the chair, Neal McArthur was elected Representative, and David Walt, Clerk—a committee was also formed consisting of Mr. John Belyon, Samuel W. Parsons, Isaac Huyck, and William Birksman.

In the Township of Thurlow, at the house of Mrs. Margaret Sampson, Belville, Robert Smith Esq. being called to the chair, Capt. Thomas Coleman was chosen Representative, and John Reynolds, Clerk—also a Committee consisting of John Frederick, Matthias Ross, and Thomas Clapp.

In the Township of Sidney, at the house of Mr. John Ketcherson, John Row, Esq. being in the chair, Capt. Jacob W. Meyers was appointed Representative, and Elkanah B. Fairfield, Clerk—also, a Committee composed of Ezekiel Lawrence, Thomas Jones, Moses Moses, and Alexander Chisholm, Esqrs.

In the Township of Loughborough, at the house of Mr. William Simkins Mr. John Freeman being called to the the chair, Mr. William Simkins was appointed to be Representative, for Inhabitants of this Township and Portland, and Mr. Thomas Raile, Clerk,—also a Committee consisting of Messrs. Luke Barret, Peter Swetzer, and David Richmond.

In the Township of Marysburgh, at the house of Daniel Wright and Capt. James Wright being in the chair, Capt. John Allen was chosen Representative and Ensign Henry Dingman, Clerk.—also a Committee consisting of Peter Huff, John Wright and Peter Rose.

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Kingston, 13th June, 1818.

This day having been named by Inhabitants of Niagara District, in their publication of Principles and Proceedings, for the meeting of District Representatives, the following persons, nominated by their respective Townships, appeared here; namely Davis Hawley, Esq. for Ernest Town, Thomas Coleman, Esq. Thurlow, William Pringle, for Richmond, Jacob W. Meyers, Esq. for Sidney, and Daniel Washburn, Esq. for Kingston.

Davis Hawley, Esq. being unanimously called to the Chair, it was discovered that a mistake as to the place of meeting, had caused some Township Representatives to assemble at Ernest Town: and, in consequence, it was resolved, not to proceed to the choice of District Representatives, Treasurer, and Secretary, this day.

It was resolved, nevertheless, that an assurance ought immediately to be dispatched to the Secretary of Niagara District, by the chairman of this Meeting, requesting him immediately to communicate to the Representatives of Niagara District, that they may depend on being met at York on the 6th July next, by persons duly appointed to act for the Midland District, as to sending to England a Commission, bearing Addresses, from this Province, to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, on the state of public affairs.

Furthermore, it was resolved, that Saturday 20th of this present month, be immediately advertised as the day of General Meeting of Township Representatives and Clerks, for this District, at the house of Abel P. Forward, Inn Keeper, at the hour of 2'clock. P. M. in the Village of Ernest-Town, for the special purpose of electing District Representatives, a Treasurer, and Secretary.

And likewise it was resolved, that the foregoing Resolutions be published in the next Kingston Gazette.

DAVIS HAWLEY, Chairman.

Ernest-Town, 15th June, 1818.

Several Representatives of Townships of the Midland District, viz. Willet Casey, Esq. M. P. for the township of Adolphustown, Paul Peterson, for Fredericksburgh; Amos Ansley for Pittsburgh and Wolf Island; Capt John Allen, for Marysburgh; Benj. Hubbs, for Hallowell; Henry W. Fox, for Sophiasburgh; and Neil McArthur, for Ameliasburgh,—assembled, by mistake, at this place on Saturday the 13th instant, having sent an intimation to those who assembled at Kingston on the said day, that they would meet this day at the House of Abel P. Forward, in this village, to proceed to business.

A meeting accordingly took place.

PRESENT :—

Daniel Washburn, Esq. for Kingston,
Amos Ansley, for Pittsburgh and Wolf-Island,
William Simpkins, for Loughborough,
Davis Hawley, Esq. for Ernest Town,
Paul Peterson, for Fredericksburgh,
William Casey, Esq. M. P. for Adolphustown,
John Allen, Esq. for Marysburgh,
Benjamin Hubbs, Esq. for Hallowell,
Neil McArthur, for Ameliasburgh,
Thomas Coleman, Esq. for Thurlow,
William Pringle, for Richmond,

(Jacob William Meyers, for Sidney, and Henry William Fox, for Sophiasburgh, being absent from unavoidable circumstances.)

Willet Casey, Esq. M. P. being unanimously called to the chair; Messrs. Thomson and Detlor, Merchants, were elected Treasurers for the Midland District, and Daniel Washburn, Esq. temporary Secretary.

DANIEL WASHBURN, THOMAS COLEMAN, PAUL PETERSON, JACOB WM. MEYERS, & DAVIS HAWLEY,	}	ESQUIRES,
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were then unanimously elected District Representatives.

A Committee of management for the District was also appointed, with power to nominate a permanent Secretary, who, together with the Treasurer, Daniel Washburn, Davis Hawley, and Paul Peterson, Esquires, should constitute the same.

The following Petition to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent was read and unanimously approved of, the same to be printed and submitted to the public for consideration and amendment.

Draft of an Address proposed for presentation to the Prince Regent, by the Township Representatives of the Midland District, submitted to the public for remark and amendment. (Variations from the Niagara Address are distinguished by italics: omissions noted by asterisks.)

To His Royal Highness, GEORGE, PRINCE OF WALES, Regent of the United Kingdom of Great Britain & Ireland, &c. &c. &c.

The humble Address of inhabitants of Upper-Canada,

May it please your Royal Highness,

The subjects of your Royal father, dwelling in Upper-Canada, would need no words to give assurance of their loyalty, if the whole truth had reached the Throne of their Sovereign. They have reason to believe that the truth has not been fairly told.

During three years of war, Upper Canada was exposed to the ravages of a powerful and inveterate foe. The government of the United States had long been concerting the invasion of this Province. Hostile preparations* were masked under other designs.* At last the accumulated torrent of hostilities burst on the defenceless children of the British empire. Nor were they assailed by the weapons of war alone. An insidious Proclamation preceded the host of the enemy, forgetful of honour, regardless of humanity, and calculated to seduce or intimidate, British subjects from their* allegiance. The subjects of Britain here remained faithful and firm. It was not for property that they rose against the invader. The invader would have spared to them their property. They flew to arms in defence of the rights and sovereignty of Britain. Twice was the American standard* planted in Upper Canada,

while yet but a handful of British troops aided the *militia*, of the Province. Twice did these raw battalions *of militia* wave the laurel of victory over the prostrate intruders on their soil. The second year of war saw Canada contending *against invasion*, with* little assistance from the parent state. The second year of the war saw her sons confirmed in their virtue, and still more determined to resist. Wives and children had fled from their homes; the face of the country was laid waste; and the fire of revenge was sent forth to consummate distress and ruin. Still was the spirit of the people unextinguished; still did it burn with patriotism and loyalty.

By the third year, every risk of conquest was at an end; for now the British aids poured into the Province; and peace was proclaimed, when war was no longer to be feared.

It is now more than three years since there was an end of war; but, *it is painful to add*, these years of peace have* *not been attended with the expected marks of attention and regard to Canada*. Commercial treaties have been formed, *without providing for the British interests in this country*. Governmental transactions, which used to give spirit to trade and industry, are at a stand; troops are withdrawn; fortifications are suffered to go to ruin; and rumours are abroad too shocking to be repeated in the Royal ear.

May it please your Royal Highness to listen calmly to the complaints and grievances of the people of Upper Canada,* who are *fully* assured of the generous dispositions of your Royal heart, and of your desire that British subjects should, every where, share equally your paternal regard and affection.

It was matter of *mortification* to the people of this Province to see, ever during the war, which afforded such striking proofs of their loyalty and valor, reports sent home, highly rating the merit of regular troops, while the tribute due to Canadian *battalions* was unfairly *withheld*. Nay, the principles of the most loyal subjects here were* stigmatised by *certain officers*, ignorant of human character, and still more so of circumstances which affect it, in this part of the world. It was not so with the immortal Brock. He justly appreciated Canadian worth: and his memory will happily long cherish, in the minds of the Canadian people, a due regard for the genuine spirit of a British Soldier, at once generous and brave.

The loyal inhabitants of Upper Canada would disdain to notice the misrepresentations of individuals, so contrary to notorious truth, if these had not obviously conspired, with other causes, to lessen the *mutual* regard which should subsist between British subjects here and at home, and to influence the conduct of ministers towards the general interest of *this Province*.

The loyal subjects of His Majesty in Upper Canada suffered grievously, during the war, in their property; and many were

berest of their all. *An official investigation, on this subject, took place; the claims of sufferers were authenticated; and there was every reason to expect, that recompence would immediately follow; yet nothing has followed, but delay and disappointment.* Surely, if there is among mankind a single principle of justice, this is one, that the individuals of a nation ought not, partially, to bear the weight of public calamity. Surely, individuals who have exposed their lives for government, should not, *in return, find government* regardless of those very principles, which it is intended to sustain. The people of this Province are well aware, that their fellow subjects at home, are pressed hard with taxation; and far is it from their wish, that relief should be afforded from thence. Canada contains, within itself, ample means of exonerating government from the claims of sufferers by war; and it is within the *fiat* of your Royal Highness to remove, by a single breath, the evil now so justly complained of. Millions of acres of fertile land lie, here, at the disposal of your Royal Highness, upon the credit of which, put under proper management, not only the fair claims of loyal sufferers could be *satisfied*, but vast sums *might* be raised, for the improvement of the Province, and the *eventual* increase of revenue to Britain.

Another grievance, manifesting the neglect of government to the concerns of Upper Canada, is equally notorious, and must be, *if possible*, still more abhorrent to the generous feelings of your Royal Highness.

The young men of this Province* *were encouraged to volunteer in its defence, by a promise of their commanders, to recommend that land should be granted them,* at the termination of the war, as a reward for their services.* *Under the faith of this promise, and in obedience to law, the militia passed beyond the frontier of the Province with alacrity; yet, since the peace, the greater part of them have been denied the pledge of their extraordinary services; and the land, thus promised to them, and defended by them, has been* withheld.*

Such ingratitude, such *injustice*, such errors in policy, your Royal Highness may be well assured, could not exist without extraordinary influences; and, were your Royal Highness sufficiently informed as to these, and of the true state of Upper Canada, we flatter ourselves, most important changes would speedily take place, as well for the glory of the throne, as for the benefit of its subjects.

Permit the loyal subjects of His Majesty, merely to say as much, at the present time, on this subject, as may induce your Royal Highness to order enquiry to be made.

The lands of the Crown in Upper Canada are of immense extent, not only stretching far and wide into the wilderness; but scattered over the Province and intermixed with private property, already cultivated. The disposal of these lands is left to Ministers at home,

who, from their distance, are* ignorant of many existing circumstances, and liable to be imposed upon by artful and interested representations; and to a Council of men residing in the Province, who, being variously connected, politically and personally, with applicants for grants, and, like other men, susceptible of partialities and prejudices, have fallen into a train of proceedings, which has given much dissatisfaction. The* abuses in this department, it is understood, came some years ago, to such a pitch* that the home ministers* imposed restrictions on the Land Council of Upper-Canada. These, however, have not effectually removed the evil.* A system of patronage and favoritism, in the disposal of Crown lands is still believed to exist, as destructive of moral rectitude and virtuous feeling in the community, as it is subversive of general confidence and respect for government; a species of influence, connected with the peculiar circumstances of this Province, and not witnessed in any other part of the British empire. It is in vain to look for improvement, until a radical change shall be effected. It matters not what characters fill situations of public trust at present. Such is the course of things, that they are insensibly drawn into the vortex. Disappointment, delay, vexation and confusion have grown out of this unhappy system; the lands of the Crown, the giving away of which has created such mischief,* have thereby come to little value.* The poor subjects of His Majesty, driven from home, by distress, to whom portions of land are granted, derive small advantage from their grants; and Loyalists of the United Empire, the descendants of those who sacrificed their all in America, in behalf of British rule, men whose names were ordered on record for their virtuous adherence to your Royal father; the descendants of those men* cannot realize the benefit expected from their destined rewards.*

Under this system of internal management, and weakened from other causes, Upper Canada now pines in comparative decay. Poverty, and discontent are experienced in a land supremely blessed with the gifts of nature. A dread of arbitrary power affects the free exercise of reason and manly sentiment. Laws have been set aside. Legislators have been brought into derision; and contempt from the mother country seems fast gathering strength to disunite the people of Canada from their friends at home.

The immediate interference of your Royal Highness may do much to check existing evils; and may wholly remove those which spring from the system of patronage and favoritism, in the land-granting department. Other evils, however, greatly retard the prosperity of Upper Canada, evils which can only be removed by the interference of the British Parliament.

Deeply penetrated with these sentiments, and most seriously inclined to have such needful changes speedily effected, the undersigned loyal subjects of Britain, dwelling in Upper Canada, now

take the extraordinary step of sending home Commissioners to bear this to the Throne and humbly entreat your Royal Highness to give ear to the details, which it will be in their power to relate; above all that your Royal Highness would send out to this Province a Commission, consisting of discreet and wise men;—men of business and talent, who shall be above every influence here; and who may be instructed to enquire into all* *existing* sources of evil and means of improvement.

Resolved, That while we are conscious, that our object, and that of the Land owners whom we represent, is to unite in a *peaceable & Constitutional* mode of proceeding, by a Loyal ADDRESS to the Prince Regent, to obtain impartial public enquiry, concerning evils believed to exist in the Administration of this Province, with a view to the removal of them, and the improvement of the state of the Province; we regard with indignation, any attempt to stigmatise as illegal, the exercise of one of the most sacred rights of Englishmen, and to suppress it by Criminal Prosecution.

Resolved, That the Township Clerks of this District, do pay in to the hands of the Treasurer, all monies which they have, or may collect, on or before the first of July next,—and that the Treasurers be requested to account therefor on that day, at this place, to the District Committee.

The thanks of the meeting were then voted to the Chairman, for his liberal conduct, and also to Mr. GOURLAY, for his disinterested exertions in behalf of the Province of Upper Canada.

This General Meeting adjourned till a future day of Meeting shall be advertised by the District Committee.

WILLET CASEY, Chairman.

A true copy, D. WASHBURN, Acting Sec'y.

Meetings in the Western District.

At Amherstburgh, at the house of Mr. Wm. Searle, Mr. Roderick Drake, was appointed Representative for the Township of Malden, Mr. Alexander Kenneth McKenzie, Clerk—also, a Committee consisting of James Caldwell, Gustavus Arwison, and John Mickle.

At Colchester, at the house of Mr. John Little. Mr. Rudolph Huffman, being in the Chair. Mr. John Brush, was chosen Representative, and Mr. Gordon Buchannon, Clerk—also, a Committee consisting of Mess'rs. John Little, Thomas Wright, Henry Lypys, and John Farres.

At Gosfield, at the house of Mr. Robert Murray. Mr. Leonard Scratch, being in the Chair, Mr. Joseph Wigle, was chosen Representative for the Townships of Gosfield and Mercia, Mr. John I.

Roe, Clerk—and Mess'rs. Michael Fox, Jacob Fox, Peter Scratch, and Henry Scratch, a Committee.

At Sandwich, at the house of Mr. Thomas Lewis. J. B. Fournieux, Chairman. Mr. Simon L'Duc, was appointed Representative, Mr. Augusten Langlois, Clerk, and Committee, Messrs. C. Pajot, Alexis Parent, Jacques Parent, and Cabrilles Boudix.

Sandwich, 13th June, 1818.

This day a meeting of the Representatives for the following Townships in the county of Essex, and Western District, was held at the house of Mr. Thomas Lewis, for furthering the general cause recommended in Mr. Robert Gourlay's address to the Resident Land Owners of U. Canada, dated 2d April, 1818.

PRESENT,

Mr. John Brush, representing the township of Colchester.

Mr. Joseph Wigle, do. do. Gosfield and Mercia.

Mr. Simon L'Duc, do. do. Sandwich, Moy and Petite Cote.

Mr. Roderick Drake, do. do. Malden.

Mr. Brush being unanimously called to the chair, the business of the day commenced by Mr. Brush's reading over the address of Robert Gourlay, to the Resident Land Owners of U. Canada, dated 2d April, 1818. The recommendations therein contained were declared to be those generally approved of at the several Township Meetings held throughout the county of Essex. Mr. Prideaux Girty was appointed Treasurer for the county of Essex only, and Mr. Alex. Kenneth McKenzie, was appointed Secretary, and these Gentlemen were desired to retire with Township Clerks, to arrange accounts and commence a regular Journal of transactions. The meeting then proceeded to choose a Representative for the county of Essex, when Mr. RODERICK DRAKE, was duly elected, and in conformity to the resolutions formed in the Niagara District, will proceed to Ancaster, by the 3d day of July next, and from thence to proceed to York, by the 6th of the same month, to appear at the Provincial Convention.

Meetings in the District of Gore.

June 6th, 1818.

In the Township of Trafalgar at the house of Mr. Daniel Munn, Mr. Samson Howell was chosen Representative, and Mr. John Brown Clerk, also a committee, viz. Messrs. James Thompson, Daniel Munn, Wm. Tisdale and John Kaiting.

In the Township of Barton, at the house of Samuel Price, Geo. Hamilton, Esq. J. P. being in the Chair, Richard Beasely, Esq. J. P. was chosen Representative and Samuel Ryckman, Clerk, also a Committee consisting of Thomas Davis, Jacob Rymal, John Smith and Daniel Crosswait.

In the Township of Ancaster at Newton's Inn, Mr. Samuel An-
druss in the Chair, Mr. Peter Hogeboom, was chosen Representative
and Mr. Thomas Lawrason, Clerk—also, a Committee, consisting of
Mr. John Binkly, Mr. William B. Van Every, and John Vanderlip.

In the Township of Nelson, at the house of Caleb Hopkins, Mr.
Moses McCay, in the Chair. Wm. Chisholm, was chosen Repre-
sentative, and Wm. McCay, Clerk.

In the Township of Flamborough East, at the house of Mr. Ga-
briel Hopkins, Geo. Chisholm, Esq. in the Chair. John Chisholm,
Esq. was elected Representative, and Mr. F. I. Harrold, Clerk—
also, a Committee consisting of Mess'rs. Geo. Chisholm, jun. Ga-
briel Hopkins, and Christian Row.

In the Township of Beverly, at the house of Mr. Rinear Vansikel,
Mr. Andw. Jones Representative, and Mr. James Deary, Clerk—
also, a Committee consisting of Mess'rs. James Cope, James Jones,
and John Humel.

In the Township of Glanford, at the house of Mr. Christopher
Terraberry, Paul Huffman, being in the Chair. Thomas Choat,
was chosen Representative, and John Hayes, Clerk—also, a Com-
mittee consisting of Mess'rs. George F. Smith, Jacob L. Smith, and
John Treanor.

Hamilton, District of Gore, June 13th, 1818.

This day a meeting of the Representatives from the different
Townships of the District, assembled at the Inn of Samuel Price, for
the purpose of Petitioning the Prince Regent on the general state of
public affairs now existing in the Province of Upper Canada.

Richard Beasely, Esq. representing the Township of Barton.

Peter Hogeboom,	Ancaster.
Jacob Springstoen,	Saltfleet.
Andrew Jones,	Beverly.
John Chisholm, Esq.	East Flamboro.
Capt. Wm. Chisholm,	Nelson.
Sampson Howell,	Trafalgar.
Thomas Choat,	Glanford.
Frederick Yeoward,	Haldimand.
Jacob Erb,	Waterloo.

Peter Hogeboom, being unanimously called to the Chair, the bu-
siness of the day commenced by reading Mr. Gourlay's Address to
the Resident Land Owners of Upper Canada, and the Petition to
the Prince Regent. The Address and Petition were unanimously
approved of by the meeting. The meeting proceeded to choose
Representatives for the District, and the following persons were u-
nanimously chosen, viz.

Richard Beasely, Esq. to represent the County of Wentworth.
Capt. Wm. Chisholm, the County of Halton.

The meeting proceeded to elect a Treasurer and Secretary, Geo. Hamilton, Esq. was elected Treasurer, and John Chisholm, Esq. Secretary. The meeting passed a vote of thanks to Mr. Gourlay, for his spirited interference in behalf of his Majesty's subjects in this Province.

Meetings in the Johnstown District.

In the Township of Crosby, June 6th, 1818, at the School house, Mr. Joseph Merriman, in the Chair, Chapman Pennock, was appointed Representative, and Nathaniel Ketchum, Clerk: also, a Committee consisting of Mess'rs. Joseph Merriman, Henry Halladay, and Aaron Pennock.

In the Township of Kitlooy, 22d June, 1818, at the house of William Talman, Benjamin Lyman, Esq. J.P. in the Chair, Capt. Duncan Livingstone, was shosen Representative, and I. S. Root, Clerk: also, a Committee consisting of Benjamin Lyman, Esq. Timothy Soper, William W. Brown, and John Arnold.

In the Township of Bastard, 23d June, 1818, at the house of E. Chamberlain, Mr. Barnabas Chapman, in the Chair, Dr. George Breakenridge, was chosen Representative, and Silas Smith, Clerk: also, a Committee composed of Mess'rs. William Stevens, Daniel Terrie, Sheldon Nichols, and Judson Stoddard.

In the Township of Landsdown, 23d June, 1818, at the house of Mrs. Lee, Mr. Nathan Hicok, in the Chair, he was chosen Representative for Inhabitants of this Township and Leeds, Mr. Oliver Eaton, Clerk, and a Committee consisting of Mess'rs Wm. Parish, John Struthers, Allan Sweet, Isaac Soper, and the Representative.

In the Township of Yonge, 24th June, 1818, at the houses of John Dickson and Stephen Andrews, Capt. Joseph Wiltsie and Mr. Wm. Thomson, in the Chair, Benoni Wiltsie, Esq. was chosen Representative, and Mr. Andrew Teed, Clerk: also, a Committee consisting of Mess'rs. John Dickson, Squire Mott, Daniel Phelps, William Thomson, Walter Adams, and Thomas P. Kenyon.

In the Township of Elizabethtown, at the house Mr. Dayton, 26th June, 1818, Thomas Smith, Esq. J. P. in the Chair, he was chosen Representative, and Mr. John Kilborn, Clerk: also, a Committee consisting of Mess'rs. Truelove Butler, Vincent Booth, Edward Howard, John Ketchum, and Abraham Dayton, Esq. J. P.

Elizabeth Town, June 26th, 1818.

Which day the following persons chosen to represent Inhabitants of Townships in the Johnstown District, with a view to co-operate with Inhabitants of the District of Niagara and others, in sending to England a commission bearing addresses to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent, on the state of Upper Canada, assembled at the house of Abraham Dayton, Esq. Elizabethtown, viz. Thomas Smyth, Esq. J. P. representing Inhabitants of Elizabethtown; Duncan Livingston, Esq. do Kitley; Dr. George Breakenridge do. Bastard; Mr. Nathan Hicock do. (rear and front of) Yonge; Mr. Chapman Pennock do. Crosby.

THOMAS SMYTH, Esq. J. P. being called to the Chair, it was

1st. *Resolved and carried*, That only about half the Townships of this District having appointed Representatives, one Representative shall be considered sufficient to proceed to York on behalf of the same.

2d. *Resolved and carried*, That the Necessary charges of the District Representative attending his duty at York, shall be defrayed out of the District fund, and be payable to the order of the Committee.

The Meeting then proceeded to choose a District Representative, when Mr. Nathan Hicock was duly elected; John Kilborn was chosen Secretary, and Thomas Smyth, Esq. J. P. Treasurer—A Committee was also appointed, consisting of Abraham Dayton, Esq. J. P. Thomas Smyth, Esq. J. P. Edward Howard, Vincent Booth, John Kilborn and the District Representatives—any three to be a quorum.

3d. *Resolved and carried*, That, as many people in the Townships, from whence Representatives have not been sent to this meeting, are known to be well disposed to the cause, the District Committee shall correspond with such people, and have an agent or agents appointed in each of said Townships to receive subscriptions from individuals and report concerning the same to the Secretary.

4th. *Resolved and carried*, That the Committee shall have power to direct payments to be made by the Treasurer, and if occasion requires, they may at any time call a meeting of Township Representatives to consult as to any unforeseen circumstance.

5th. *Resolved and carried*, That it shall be clearly understood, that all monies not applied to, or required for, the purposes in view, shall be refunded, in due proportion, to individual subscribers.

6th. *Resolved and carried*, That the District Representative shall consult with other Representatives when assembled at York, as to a proper Draft of an address to His Royal Highness the Prince Regent; and that a copy of the same be laid by him before the Township Representatives of this District, at their first general meeting after his return from York.

7th. *Resolved and carried*, That this general meeting do adjourn, till Saturday, the 25th July next, then to meet at the house of Uri Stone, in Elizabethtown, at the hour of twelve o'clock, and that the Clerks of the several townships do then and there present themselves with subscription lists and money collected, to be paid over by them to the District Treasurer.

(Signed)

THOMAS SMYTH, Chairman.

A true copy, (Signed) JOHN KILBORN, Clerk.

At a Meeting of the Lower Branch Convention, held this day, August 1, 1818, at Kingston, the following Members being present, viz,

DAVIS HAWLEY,
THOMAS COLEMAN,
DANIEL WASHBURN,
PAUL PETERSON,
THOMAS D. SANFORD,
N. HICOK,

} Esquires.

DAVIS HAWLEY, Esq. was called to the chair.—The Minutes of the Upper Branch Convention were read, and the following Resolutions passed.

1st. *Moved*, That Mr. Thomas D. Sanford be received into the Lower Branch Convention, for the District of Newcastle, upon his honor being pledged that he has been chosen by the Township Representatives in the room of Robert J. Kerr.

(Signed) THOMAS COLEMAN,
Carried. Seconded, PAUL PETERSON.

2d. *Moved*, That the Secretary of the Lower Branch Convention, write to the Treasurer of the District of Newcastle and Johnstown, requesting them to pay into the hands of the Treasurers of the Lower Branch Convention, the respective funds collected for the purpose of carrying into effect the proceedings of the general Convention, held at York, 6th July 1818.

(Signed) THOMAS COLEMAN.
Carried. Seconded, PAUL PETERSON.

3d. *Moved*, That Saturday the 29th of August, at 2 o'clock, P. M. be the day appointed for Township Meetings, where there has been no Meetings held or Representatives appointed; & that the Township Representatives do meet on Monday the 31st, at the same hour, to choose District Representatives, and that the District Representatives so appointed do meet the next Branch and General Convention.

(Signed) THOMAS COLEMAN.
Carried. Seconded, T. D. SANFORD.

4th. *Moved*, That a number of Public Notices be distributed by the Secretary, amongst the inhabitants of Townships where there has been no Meetings held, of the third resolve of the Lower Branch Convention.

(Signed) DAVIS HAWLEY.
Carried. Seconded, NATHAN HICOK

5th. *Moved*, That this Branch Convention do adjourn until a further day of Meeting be appointed by the Secretary of this Convention, on the requisition of three of the District Representatives, agreeable to the 11th Resolution of the Convention.

(Signed) THOMAS COLEMAN,
Carried. Seconded, DAVIS HAWLEY.

ADJOURNED.